



L A R C



Volume 46, Number 10

October 2006

DATES TO REMEMBER

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday October 5, 2006 - 7 PM

VE Testing @ 6:00 PM

Refreshments - Door Prizes

HAMFEST SCHEDULE

Pineville - October 14

Monroe - November 11, 2006

Each Wednesday

Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery
Check 146.820 - repeater for info

Each Monday, 7:00 p.m.

AARA Net 146.820 - 600

Each Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

ARES Net 145.370 - 600 PL 103.5

YL/XYL Only Net 146.820 - 600

a.k.a. Filly Net

AARA OFFICERS 2006-2007

President - Roland Guidry NA5Q

na5q@w5ddl.org

Vice Pres - Stratos Imvriotis KE5DCI

Secretary - Randy Castille N5MLJ

Treasurer - Joy Breaux N5YCS

BOARD MEMBERS

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Shannon Lytle KE5CKT

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Newsletter Editor

Herman Campbell KN5GRK

The **LARC** is published monthly by the:
Acadiana Amateur Radio Association
P. O. Box 51174

Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Regular meetings 1st Thursday of
each month at 7:00 p.m. at the
American Red Cross Building
101 North Pat Street Scott, LA

President's Message

Amateur Radio population is increasing in the Acadiana area with 27 new licensed hams in the pass 2 months. We have an expected class size of 50-55 persons for the next Technician Class. We could see the population of new hams increase dramatically in the coming months. Dags, KE5CGN, has informed me that ARRL in Connecticut has taken notice of what we are doing and is planning a QST write-up. They may be in town for our October class instructions, doing interviews and taking photos.

The museum is at a standstill, due to weather. The antennas are built but not installed on the tower yet. I understand that the carpeting and the radio tables are complete. Here is Nick K5QXJ and Rick N5RLM after the tower was installed and cables/coax ran. Brian, with Global Technologies assisted with cable runs also. I, NA5Q took the picture.



We had a small turn out for Amateur Awareness Day, September 16th. Few public responses, but there were many folks reading the verbiage on AMOS. So they knew what AMOS stood for. We started at 8 AM, it was very hot, we made it until 2 PM that afternoon. Greg, K5LFT, took this picture. There were other club members that showed up from time to time, not shown in picture. *More on page 4.*



We have a very fine club, the largest in Louisiana at the present. Lets be proud of what we have and promote Amateur Radio to the general public. I firmly believe there are many prospective hams in our area that are just waiting for an invitation to discover the Amateur Radio Service.

Check out our schedule of events on our web page, www.w5ddl.org for upcoming events. Herman, KN5GRK, will need assistance with the marathons that will be taking place in October and November. Don't let him ask you, volunteer. Ok?

Good health, God Bless.....73, de Roland Guidry NA5Q President

Propagation

When you pick up a handheld transceiver and communicate on VHF or UHF across town or through a repeater you are generally transmitting line of sight. Not so however with HF transmission. When you are using 160m to 10m the signal reaches the earth's ionosphere and bounces back to earth to be received at a greater distance than line of sight.

The Ionosphere

The ionosphere is a layer in the Earth's atmosphere that lies in a range of 80 to 300 miles above the Earth's surface that reflects radio waves. As the sun shines on the ionosphere it changes composition and height which affects the propagation characteristics. In general signals below 30 MHz bounce off this layer and return to Earth while signals above 30 MHz go through the layer into outer space. So watch what you say on 2 meters, someone on Alpha Centauri might be listening. Signals below 30 MHz can also travel by ground wave and be received a short distance from the transmitter.

Daily Patterns

Radio signals that are bounced or refracted off the ionosphere are also affected by the time of day and season of the year. During the 24 hours cycle the ionosphere changes in height above the Earth and bounces some signals while absorbing others. During the day the higher frequencies (above 10Mhz) tend to propagate while lower frequencies are absorbed. At night the reverse happens. There are many exceptions to this but it is a good general guideline.

Seasonal Patterns

Seasons also affect propagation. Summertime in the northern hemisphere means that higher frequencies have better propagation while in the winter the lower frequencies improve. An interesting time of the year for propagation is when the seasons change from fall to winter and from winter to spring. This is often when the best DX can be found. Because the seasonal change is occurring in both hemispheres but in the opposite direction DX from North American to Australia or southern Africa can be at its best.

The Sunspot Cycle

Another phenomenon that affects radio propagation is the 11 year sunspot cycle. A peak occurred during the year 2000 and the next peak will occur around 2011. A sunspot low occurs at the midpoint of this cycle. When the sunspots are at their maximum propagation is at its best. At this time the higher shortwave frequencies exhibit the best propagation extending to 6 meters which becomes quite popular during this time of the cycle. 10 meters can easily work stations worldwide with low power (even qrp) and a modest antenna.

Making Propagation Work for You

Why should you be interested in propagation? Well if you want to make those DX contacts you will need to be aware of when propagation is best for conditions to your target. One way to do this is to listen. Another is to check propagation sources such as WWV mentioned above. You can also get familiar with the propagation tables presented monthly in QST and CQ magazines. These charts will tell you when to expect the best propagation on what bands and at what time for your location to other areas of the world. An excellent source is to check the DX clusters online or by packet radio. This can give you current information about DX activity that is happening right now.

(continued on page 5 column 1)

2006 SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

The date decided for the LA Section Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is Saturday, October 28. Detailed scenarios will be determined by local and district level ARES leaders. We will have one or more HF traffic nets operating to help tie the various ARES groups together, along with providing an outlet for any formal messages going outside LA. Some broad guidelines are currently being drawn up by K5GLS (LA SEC) and will be distributed to all of the LA ECs and DEC's in the near future.

On a related note, the newest issue of the LA Section Net Newsletter is now posted on the section website at <http://www.laarrrl.org/netnews.html> Much of this issue is focused on generating test messages for the SET and other emergency drills. Everyone planning to participate in the upcoming SET is advised to review this information before October 28!

73,
Mickey Cox K5MC
LA Section Manager
E-mail: k5mc@arrrl.org
LA Section Website:
www.laarrrl.org/

Editor's Note:

October 28 happens to fall on the Saturday that the AARA will be participating in the UL 5K Homecoming Marathon in Lafayette.

It has been suggested that our club do our SET sometime in November. I will keep you posted as information comes in.

Herman Campbell KN5GRK
Editor - LARC

NTS Traffic Handling Training

On Monday September 11th, the new hams in the Acadiana area (most employed in the medical field) did a message handling training exercise on the AARA Monday Night Net on the 146.82 repeater at 7:00 PM.

After taking check-ins from our regular group, getting their comments, and our weekly announcements, we held a training session for the new hams located in several of our local hospitals. This training may be useful in times of emergencies as found out during and after last year's hurricanes.

The group met at the hospitals around 6:00 PM to get familiar with the VHF transceivers and for some beforehand instructions from experienced hams to help guide them. I have listed those facilities represented below along with their instructors and new amateur radio operators:

Our Lady of Lourdes

John KA5BSE & Maureena KB5SMX

Todd Blanchard	KE5KEJ
Kathy Wood	KE5KFA
Mary Margo Williams	KE5KEY
Francisco Lopez	KE5KER
Jerry McManus	KE5KEG

Lafayette General Medical Center

Dags KE5CGN & Ed WA5TNK

Laura Mashek	KE5KEU
Charles Mashek	KE5KET
Chris Warner	KE5KEH
Tabitha Richard	

Lafayette General Surgery Center

Rick N5RY

Murphy Lormand	KE5KES
Rachel Wilson	KE5KEZ

Women's & Children's Hospital

Shannon KE5CKT

Blaine Landry	KE5KEP
John Romero	KE5KEX
Gregory Davis	KE5KEN

There were six piece of traffic passed during this net with very few mistakes made. Our AARA Monday Night Net had 39 check-ins and ran a total time of one hour and twelve minutes. Plans are to set up a "hospital net" in the near future so more of the medical personnel can get involved.

I had a lot of fun as NCS for this net along with getting to talk first time to many of the new hams and looking forward to meeting them again on the air.

I think all of us would like to thank Rick Bourgeois N5RY for setting up this training session, all the class instructors, VE's that gave the test and did all the paperwork, and all others that took time to get involved, hopefully this training will come in handy when we are faced with any emergency that may arise.

On page 2 of this newsletter, you will note a short article on the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) scheduled for October 28th. This will be a good time to get some REAL emergency training. I will try to keep you posted by e-mail on what our plans for Acadiana's part will be.

BTW, we had 30 plus additions to our club membership roster in the last 2 months and I understand that there will 50 persons signing up for the October 23rd class.

Herman Campbell - Editor
KN5GRK

September Meeting Testing Results

At the meeting on September 7, we had six people that tested, five of them passed.

Two YL's that took the ham radio classes now have Technician License. They are:

Jessica Arnold - KE5KJC

Angela Lucito - KE5KJE

A couple from Breaux Bridge also received their Technician License. They are:

Larry J. Leblanc - KE5KJD

Sandra M. Leblanc - KE5KJF

And of course Rose Pitre - KE5IJE passed her Extra Class. Not bad, zero to Extra in five months.

And BTW, how is this for service? Put the testing forms in the mail on Thursday and they have their new calls on the following Monday. The FCC and Post Office must be doing something right!

Danny K5ARH

VEC in Charge

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

N = NEW R = RENEWAL

JESSICA ARNOLD	KE5KJC	N
ANGELA LUCITO	KE5KJE	N
JANELLE		
CHAMPANGE		N
JENNIFER NOEL		N
SUSAN WOOLLEN		N
CHERYL	KE5IBM	N
BEGNAUD		
MIKE PITRE	WR5U	N
ROSE PITRE	KE5IJE	N

Amateur Awareness Day 2006 Results

September 16, 2006

Today, the AARA celebrated Amateur Awareness Day by setting up the club AMOS van in the Wal-Mart Supercenter on Ambassador Caffery in Lafayette at 9:00 AM.

The day started at around 6:00 AM by Calvin - KD5JCT driving the van from Duson to the site followed by Roland - NA5Q. Kathy - KD5TJZ met at John's - KA5BSE QTH around 8:00 AM and towed the 5K Onan generator to the site. Roland - NA5Q brought a canopy, chairs, a table and ice chests full of soft drinks. Herman - KN5GRK brought a table and a two meter station along with a poster board with pictures of previous club events. ARRL handouts promoting amateur radio were placed on a table with a guest sign-in book. Other members gathered at site and helped out when needed.

The AMOS van provided HF contacts from coast to coast on 20 and 40 meters using the screwdriver antenna. Thanks to Joy - N5YCS for providing sandwiches for all.



ALLEN	KD5OZJ	JOHN	KE5EEO
GREG	K5LFT	MIKE	KE5AWZ
JOHN	KA5BSE	MAUREENA	KB5SMX
ED	WA6TNK	DAGS	KE5CGN
HERMAN	KN5GRK	DEBBIE	KC5CLK
RICK	N5RLM	JOY	N5YCS
KATHY	KD5TJZ	ROLAND	NA5Q
CALVIN	KD5JCT	CHERYL	KE5IBM
JACK WINN			

Photos by Jack Winn

**WE
ALL
HAD
A
GREAT
TIME!**

THE CREW

THANKS

At this time the AARA would like to express our sincere "THANKS" to those who have helped so far by keeping our expense down for the "LARC" newsletter. Those are:

Lafayette Salvation Army - for the use of their copy machine.

Global Technology Group - for the use of their copy machine.

Gulf South Printing & Specialties - furnishing paper for newsletter & labels.



10/01	KE5IBM	CHERYL
10/01	KC5BYD	JAY
10/02	KE5KEJ	TODD
10/04	K5LFT	GREG
10/04	KE5KFA	KATHY
10/06	KE5CKT	SHANNON
10/10	KE5KEQ	ASHTON
10/10	KN5GRK	HERMAN
10/15	KA5IJU	CAROLYN
10/20	KE5HSX	DANE
10/26	KE5JUW	JIMMIE
10/27		LARRY
10/27	KE5CGN	DAGMAR
10/31	N5RY	RICK
11/07	KC5IOB	PAM



Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership application, this is why some may not be listed.

GET INVOLVED!

The AARA will be involved in three upcoming marathon races. The first is the UL Homecoming 5K on October 25th, the second is the Cajun Cup 10K Run on November 11th, and the third is the Cajun 1/2 Marathon on December 2nd.

If you would like to take part in some of these races, I will have a sign up sheet at the October meeting and will need your "T" shirt sizes.

Of course there will be food and drinks for all volunteers plus we all have a lot of fun.

(continued from page 2 column 1)

VHF and UHF

Although these frequencies are not normally thought to be bands where propagation occurs there are times when it signals on VHF and UHF travel well beyond their expected distance. These conditions generally occur erratically and are not as predictable as HF conditions. Some of the conditions that can affect VHF and UHF are:

- **Tropo** - This condition refers to tropospheric propagation which is primarily affected by weather systems. Look for significant weather changes such as a cold front moving in or a major storm system. Also early evening as the earth cools and early mornings as the earth warms can cause these conditions.
- **Sporadic E** - occurs when small patches of the ionosphere are ionized. Sporadic E occurs during June-July and early August and again in December and January. as the name suggests this condition is sporadic and you have to be very patient to benefit from it.
- **Aurora** - The northern lights (aurora borealis) occurs in the northern parts of Canada and can also be seen from northern U.S. states. The "lights" are caused by a solar storm and can have an effect on radio propagation. It can affect VHF and UHF as well as HF propagation. To use the aurora you may need to point your antenna north to work a station to the south as signals bounce back from the aurora.

Depending on who you want to work and where, the operating mode you choose can be almost as important as the propagation. On the next LARC we will examine the various Operating Modes, the modes that you can choose from as a radio amateur.

Submitted by:

Stratos Imvriotis KE5DCI

AARA Vice President

October Calendar

October 5	AARA General Meeting @ 7:00 PM - Red Cross Building
October 14	Central Louisiana ARC Hamfest - See info on this page.
October 20 - 21	Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) - Boy Scout
October 21	Technician Class @ Home Bank 8:00 PM - Kaliste Saloom Rd.
October 28	UL 5K Marathon Race - Lafayette, LA
October 28	Simulated Emergency Test (SET) - Louisiana ARES®

October Special Events

W8T - Oct 6 - 7 - Tall Stacks on the air - Cincinnati's Riverboat Festival
 N3A - Oct 15 - 31 - Second Anniversary of the North American QRP CW Club.
 W7DK/90 - Oct 16, 1800Z - Oct 22, 0100Z - Radio Club of Tacoma's 90TH Anniversary
 W4CA - Oct 21 - 1400 - 2100 - O. Winston Link Special Event
 W6Y - Oct 21 - Yolo District Boy Scouts Jamboree On The Air
 NC4AR - Oct 21 - 18th Annual NASCAR Days Festival
 N9Q - Oct 22 - 23 - Illinois QSO Party Special Event
 K8J - Oct. 27 - Oct 30 - Main Street Baptist Church Centennial Year
 W4A - Oct 28 - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's 67th Anniversary
 Check out the ARRL website for more detail at:

<http://www.arrrl.org/contests/spev.html#oct>

CLARC Hamfest

Saturday, October 14th, 2006

8:00 AM till 3:00 PM

Kees Park Community Center - Hwy. 28 East in Pinville - Pineville, Louisiana - Ferriday - Jonesville Exit.

Friday, October 13th, will be for Dealers and Hamfest crew to set-up ONLY.

Tables \$10.00 Each - Please reserve before HamFest - Power available upon request.

Dealers invited.

*** NO ADMISSION FEE***

Talk-in Freq. 147.330+ TONE 173.8

VE Testing will start at 9:00am

Please bring original and copy of your FCC license. For more information contact:

kd5dfl@cox-internet.com

Also Contact:

Hoppy Laughlin - 318-253-4822 or Scott

Wren - 318-484-6744, After 5:30 PM

***** Door Prizes *****

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 - Drawing hourly starting at 9:00 AM

**** Grand Prize Drawing ****

1st Grand Prize - Icom 718 HF 80-10 m

2nd Grand Prize - Icom V8000 75 w

2 meter mobile

3rd Grand Prize - Smoked Ham

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

Special Drawing - 6KW Generator

Seperate tickets. - \$1.00 each

* Need not be present for the Grand Prize Drawing at 2:00 PM*

Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club

Website:

<http://www.clarc.us/>

3957 Group Gathering

I was asked to add this to the October issue of the LARC by Scott Wren KD5DFL.

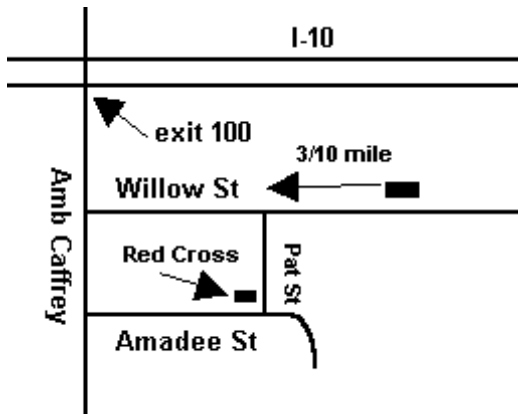
The 3957 Group will have a get-together on October 27th & 28th at Cotile Lake, Gardner, La. On Saturday food will be served, but please bring a covered dish. For more info please contact Pete at: kd5fybham@aol.com

The 3957 website can be found at:

<http://www.tlc-3957.com/>

Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



COMPLEMENTARY
ISSUE

AARA GENERAL MEETING - Oct. 5

Red Cross Bldg., 101 N. Pat St.. Scott, LA

7:00 PM - VE Testing @ 6:00 PM

Refreshments - Door Prizes

Suggestions for DX Pile-ups.....by Uncle DX

1. The DX station operators are in charge of any pile-up.
2. The DX station should make and adhere to their operating rules quietly and respectfully.
3. The DX Station should use, when appropriate, call ares and ares of the world for better accuracy, rate and order.
4. The DX station should use split operation and spread stations out, keeping in mind others not in the pile-ups. A must.
5. The DX station should give their call sign at least every 10 minutes and maintain a pattern especially when ending a QSO.
6. The DX station should create a rhythm or timing which maintains a good rate and allows the pile-up to call at the right time.
7. The operators in the pile-up, if not sure of a QSO, should dupe and the DX operator continue not wasting time commenting.
8. The DX station should work those who will create the fastest rate, at least at first, then make an effort to work the weaker stations.
9. No one should lecture on the air.
10. Everyone should always require and give full calls.
11. Know and practice the gray line.
12. Know the equipment being operated such as the split button, audio levels, keying wave form, etc.
13. NEVER be a "KC Cop".....never.
14. Operators giving spots on a DX Cluster should insure their accuracy!
15. Keep away from personal, political, and religious comments any time on the air and/or the DX Cluster. Keep all comments in the true spirit of ham radio whereby ALL ARE EQUAL.
16. Don't rush when giving your call when the DX station is standing by.
17. Don't call the DX station constantly. Get in the rhythm.
18. Let the last station complete his QSO.
19. Use only the power it takes and figure out what that is!
20. Figure out the DX operator's operating practice for greater success.

These "Suggestions" provided courtesy of QRZ DX and The DX Magazine.

<http://www.dxpub.com>

FCC LICENSE INFO SERVICE

The FCC toll-free (WATS) number for Amateur Radio license inquiries - including inquiries about vanity and new call signs. The number, 888-225-5322, will connect callers to the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at 202-414-1250 or ulscomm@fcc.gov.

Web site:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New callsign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC is: Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245